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Marine Fisheries Advisory
October 21, 2003

NOAA FISHERIES HOLDS PUBLIC MEETINGS ON POTENTIAL CHANGES
TO ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT
Massachusetts to Host Hearing on December 9

NOAA Fisheries will hold a series of public meetings in the Atlantic coastal States to discuss its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the impacts of potential revisions to Federal Atlantic striped bass regulations for the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). NOAA Fisheries is considering a recommendation from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to implement regulations in the EEZ that: (1) remove the moratorium on the harvest of Atlantic striped bass in the EEZ; (2) implement a 28-inch minimum size limit for recreational and commercial Atlantic striped bass fisheries in the EEZ; and (3) allow states the ability to adopt more restrictive rules for fishermen and vessels licensed in their jurisdictions. All persons affected by or otherwise interested in Atlantic striped bass management in the EEZ are invited to participate in determining the scope and significance of issues to be analyzed in development of an EIS by participating in one or more of the scheduled scoping hearings.

Schedule of Public Scoping Hearings:

Wednesday, November 5, 2003 - Portsmouth, NH, 7-8:30 p.m.

Urban Forestry Center
45 Elwin Road
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Wednesday, November 12, 2003 - Manteo, NC, 7-9 p.m.

North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island
374 Airport Road
Manteo, NC 27954

Tuesday, November 18, 2003 -Toms River, NJ, 6-9 p.m.

Quality Inn
815 Route 37
Toms River, NJ 08755

Wednesday, November 19, 2003 - Dover, DE, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Richardson & Robbins Bldg.
89 Kings Highway
Dover, DE

Monday, December 1, 2003 - Stony Brook, NY, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

State University of New York at Stony Brook (SUNY)
Student Activities Center
Nicolls Road
Stony Brook, NY 11794

Tuesday, December 2, 2003 - Old Lyme, CT, 7-9 p.m.

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Marine Headquarters
Boating Education Building
333 Ferry Road
Old Lyme, CT 06371

Monday, December 8, 2003 - Portland, ME, 7-9 p.m.

Holiday Inn By The Bay
88 Spring Street
Portland, ME 04101

Tuesday, December 9, 2003- Bourne, MA, 7-10 p.m.

Canal Club
100 Trowbridge Road
Bourne, MA 02532

Wednesday, December 10, 2003 - Narragansett, RI, 7-9 p.m.

University of Rhode Island, Bay Campus
Corless Auditorium
South Ferry Road
Narragansett, RI

See the [Federal Register Notice](#) for the NOAA Fisheries Notice of Intent to Develop an EIS. Copies of the scoping document will be available on this website, after November 3, 2003. Written scoping comments should be sent to: Anne Lange, Chief, State-Federal Fisheries Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, 1315 East West Highway, Room 13317, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments may also be sent via fax to (301) 713-0596. Comments will be accepted until 5 PM (EST) on December 22, 2003.